
From: Zachary Kessler
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 2:23 PM
To: Zachary Kessler
Subject: FW: Request for amendments to the executive budget

From: Nicole Etter <sweeneyetter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2023 11:13 AM
To: Margaret Arney; James Moldenhauer; Robin Brannin; David Lewis; Joel Tilleson; Joe Phillips; Amanda Fuerst; Melissa Dolan
Subject: [External] Request for amendments to the executive budget

Dear Financial Affairs committee,

I was disappointed to see that the city's 2024 executive budget didn't include funding for a sustainability manager, despite the fact that the creation of this new position has been supported by the Department of Public Works and the Common Council.

This budget decision seems short-sighted considering the increasing environmental challenges we all face — especially as we just witnessed Earth's hottest summer on record. Developing and implementing an environmental adaptation plan was considered important enough to be the very first point under "Quality of Life" in the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. Without a dedicated person, how can the city expect to achieve this key piece of the Strategic Plan?

Other municipalities across the nation and here in Wisconsin have already invested in sustainability staff. As just one example, Middleton, a Wisconsin city less than half the size of Wauwatosa, has a sustainability coordinator. And I've heard they're doing great work: Middleton recently became the [first city in the state](#) to earn LEED Gold certification.

I understand there are competing budget priorities, but I think items in the Strategic Plan should get precedence. I also think the ROI could be high in terms of our community's future quality of life — and the cost of not investing in sustainability efforts could be steep down the road.

On another topic, I urge you to support Municipal Judge Krista LaFave's requests regarding court clerk staffing. The city's plan to cover the .6 position through multiple people who are already assigned elsewhere seems inefficient. Considering the increase in citations coming before the court, I fear that this will reduce the efficiency of our court system while also hurting other city departments by stretching existing resources too thin.

Thank you for considering these amendments.

Sincerely,
Nicole Etter
2733 N. 73rd St.